AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 7, lines 16-25, with the following paragraph:

Figure 4A depicts a cross-sectional view of microneedle device 101 prior to its application to skin. In this embodiment, drug reservoir 170 is loaded with a predetermined amount of a therapeutic in liquid form. The microneedle openings 121 of microneedles 120 are blocked by microneedle plugs 130. Microneedle plugs 130 have an ~~accurate~~ arcuate shape with shoulders 132 that extend beyond the diameter of microneedles 120. In this embodiment, the plugs 130 have a shape adapted to act as a barb and catch biological tissue. The plugs 130 may have a frangible seam that fractures when the microneedle device 101 is applied to the patient's tissue. This allows the plug 130 to separate from the needle 120, and thereby facilitates the flow of agent through the needle 120.

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, line 13, through page 9, line 2, with the following paragraph:

Figure 4D depicts a cross-sectional view of the microneedle 120 having a plug 130 disposed therein. Specifically, FIG. 4D depicts that the microneedle 120 may have an interior channel 122 that is conically shaped. The plug 130 may have a lower ~~accurate~~ arcuate section 132 and an upper conical section 134. The upper conical section 134 mates up with the interior wall of the channel 122 to form a mechanical stop that prevents the plug 130 from sliding out of the distal end of the interior channel 122. In a further optional embodiment, the plug 130 may include a proximal end that secures to the exterior surface of the microneedle 120. In such an embodiment, the plug 130 does not enter into the microneedle channel, or does not enter a substantial amount. Instead the plug 130 includes a frangible collar that wraps around and secures to the exterior distal surface of the microneedle 120. Such an embodiment is depicted in FIG. 4A which shows one of the microneedles 130 having a proximal collar 132. The proximal collar 132 may be formed of the same material as the plug 130, or optionally of a different material. A frangible seam 134, which may be a perforated seam, may be disposed between the collar 132 and the distal end of the plug 130. The frangible seam 134 may facilitate the separation of the distal end of the plug 130 from the device 101. In these embodiments, the plug 130 may be formed of a bioerodible material. Such materials include polymers of hydroxy acid and are enumerated in more detail below. In other embodiment, the plug 130 may be made of other materials, including materials that carry a medicant for delivering medicant to the patient. Still, in other embodiments, the plug 130 may include a combination of materials. In any case, the material or materials selected will depend upon the application at hand and all are understood to fall within the scope of the invention.

Please replace the paragraph at page 16, lines 12-17, with the following paragraph:

In a preferred embodiment, the reservoir contains drug[[,]] for delivery through the microneedles. The reservoir may be a hollow vessel, a porous matrix, or a solid form including the drug which is transported therefrom. The reservoir can be formed from a variety of materials that are compatible with the drug or biological fluid contained therein. Preferred materials include natural and synthetic polymers, metals, ceramics, semiconductors, organics, and composites.

Please replace the paragraph at page 21, lines 16-24, with the following paragraph:

In particular embodiments, the device should be "user-friendly." For example, in some transdermal applications, affixing the device to the skin should be relatively simple, and not require special skills. The embodiment of a microneedle may include an array of microneedles attached to a drug-containing housing ~~containing drug~~ in an internal reservoir, wherein the housing has a bioadhesive coating around the microneedles and the microneedles are plugged with bioerodible elements. The patient can remove a peel-away backing to expose an adhesive coating, and then press the device onto a clean part of the skin, leaving it to administer the drug over the course of, for example, several days.